

4/26/07

T. Hayden Barnes
NREMT-Paramedic
Campus Box 8106
Valdosta State University
Valdosta, GA 31698

President Ronald Zaccari
Valdosta State University

This letter is a formal request for exemption from the mandatory student fees totaling \$100 earmarked to finance the construction of the parking garages contained within the Valdosta State University Master Plan.

This appeal is based on four premises.

1. I will never use the proposed parking garages, for any purpose. In no way and under no circumstances will I support their construction.
2. I am willing to accept and be held responsible for the potential losses that may result, suggested by you sir, from investment in alternatives.
3. Payment of the parking garage fees requires me to be complicit in a lost opportunity to reduce emissions and roll back deadly global climate change and human health effects. Failure to act on this imperative issue and continuing to invest in personal vehicle usage represents a violation of my moral and ethical being. I refuse to finance the obesity epidemic, childhood asthma, armed conflict over oil reserves, massive global species extinction, and the hastening of an ecological collapse unheard of in human history.
4. I will gladly contribute \$100 to S.A.V.E., the faculty environmental committee, the University's energy audit or recycling program, or any other environmental-related program on campus to compensate for the loss to the University's revenue.

Sincerely,

T. Hayden Barnes

P.S. I have ordered a copy of Jared Diamond's "Collapse: How Societies Choose To Fail or Succeed" for you, a follow-up to his work "Guns, Germs, and Steel" (for which he won a Pulitzer Prize). "Collapse" presents a compelling theory on how societies live or die based on their relationship to the earth. Diamond cites detailed examples of societies that have failed as a direct result of mismanagement of their ecological base and societies that have succeeded for thousands of years through sustainable practices.